

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A mouse whose somatic and germ cells comprise a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, the disruption resulting in said mouse having a level of blood pressure that is higher than the level observed in a control mouse lacking said disruption, wherein said mouse is homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence and lacks expression of an IEX-1 polypeptide.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 1, wherein said mouse has a level of blood pressure that is 5 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse lacking said disruption.
4. (Currently Amended) The mouse of claim 1, wherein said mouse ~~mammal~~ has a level of blood pressure that is 10 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse lacking said disruption.
5. (Currently Amended) The mouse of claim 1, wherein said mouse ~~mammal~~ has a level of blood pressure that is 20 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse lacking said disruption.
6. (Currently Amended) The mouse of claim 1, wherein said mouse ~~mammal~~ has a level of blood pressure that is 30 mm of Hg higher than the level observed in a control mouse lacking said disruption.

7. (Currently Amended) A mouse comprising somatic and germ cells that are heterozygous for a disrupted IEX-1 sequence, wherein a mouse homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence has a level of blood pressure that is higher than the level observed in a control mouse not homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence, and wherein said mouse homozygous for said disrupted IEX-1 sequence lacks expression of an IEX-1 polypeptide.

8. (Cancelled).